Nat Schaffner

Debate from 2/3

**I submitted this the other day without a conclusion because I assumed we would be debating in class and I would have substantial new information to contribute... But that wasn't really the case, so I've written a conclusion to hopefully avert losing points (like on my first debate type-up).

Artificial intelligence will make people study less and learn less because they will expect intelligent systems on the web to synthesize knowledge for them (that is, all the answers will be available from the best authorities on a topic in wikipedia and other sources) and they will be less inclined to critically question what they are read and told.

Pro1: as reliable and complete information becomes more easily accessible, less effort is required to obtain an answer to a question, changing the way people study and learn. As a result, the skills of critical reading and interpretation of information are not used, and if they fall into disuse, individuals are more likely to misinterpret misleading or false information as correct.

Con1: as reliable and complete information sources become more easily accessible, individuals will need to spend less effort obtaining accurate information. As these sources become more popularized (and individuals accustomed to using them), individuals will be more capable of obtaining accurate information as opposed to "giving up" and settling for unreliable or wrong information. Users will instead learn to critically the sources and methods by which they obtain information, as well as information that is communicated by a source or method.

Pro2: as individuals become reliant on easy access to information, the ability to reason with presented information to come to a knowledgable understanding without questioning the validity of the source, because if it is taken for granted that the information presented is factual and reliable will be lost. It will be easier for an individual to fall victim to misinformation presented in a false context (phishing emails, false "dummy" sites that mimic banks, online retailers, etc.) as "trusting" the information is not based around reasoning.

Con2: as information that is factual and relevant to a question is more easily acceptable, individuals will foster a skillset involving the fastest way to obtain specific types of information, I.e. Better at

searching as the tools for searching (google) and storage (wikipedia) information become more advanced with AI tools, algorithms, and behavior. Getting an answer is easier with tools like spell checking of search queries and automatic "did you mean" correction. Individuals will instead naturally become better at finding the correct information as tools become better at promoting it. Naturally reinforcing skills of critical questioning what is seen, read, and heard.

Conclusion:

Artificial intelligence will NOT make people study less and learn less because they will expect intelligent systems on the web to synthesize knowledge for them. However, intelligent systems will CHANGE the way people study and learn, to take advantage of these tools to learn more effectively. People will NOT be less inclined to critically question what they are read and told. However, people will be less inclined to critically question information from a "legitimate" source like Wikipedia, but will retain the ability to recognize an unreliable or false source and will naturally question it's validity (for example, students don't question text books, but would be likely to question a fellow student's summary of the textbook information, unless the fellow student has an established record of accuracy relative to the student's own, which is not usually the case.)